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First Page, \$1.00 per inch per month; page 2, \$1 and 4, \$1.00. Professional Cards, one inch or less, \$1.00 per year. All casual insertions 10c. per in.

RAT PORTAGE, ONT., DEC. 17, 1901.

THE RIDEOUT PETITION.

The Town Councillor who advocates private against municipal ownership of public franchises, sometimes finds himself entangled in the strangest and most inexplicable tangles of economic polity. Here for instance is a peculiar spectacle: Coun. Belyea is the warmest advocate of private ownership of our electric franchise, and yet showed by his burst of sympathy with the people's cause with the Rideout water supply, that he is unconsciously a fanatical adherent of the public ownership religion—unless as is likely the case he was playing the game of catching votes by demagogic utterances.

The private C. T. & E. Co. run their business on business principles, and they make no rebates to people who are not in a position to pay full rates. Indeed they would become a laughing stock in the business world if they attempted to do anything like what Coun. Belyea proposed in connection with the Rideout water supply, and yet Mr. Belyea is fighting against municipal ownership—or trying to fool the voters.

Coun. Chadwick on the other hand was frigidly logical and he will lose votes. He thought the Rideout people should pay the same as anybody else—or at least according to the schedule of the waterworks management.

We don't. We claim that a town council is not a political, inexorable stamp mill, or a soulless corporation, but a body of men representing not only the business interests of the town, but also and more emphatically the best interests of the town. The happiness of the people should be considered before an alleged creditable book of accounts, which means nothing.

And from a business standpoint even we declare that the people of the Rideout are not getting a square deal. Fifty cents a month is too much to pay for the privilege of carrying water from a hydrant in a twenty below temperature. You can get water in your house for 8¢ a month, and the town has to carry the water to the street line in front of your house.

A MODERN NEW TESTAMENT.

The translation of the "Twentieth Century New Testament" has been completed in Chicago. The object of the book is to clothe the ideas of the New Testament in modern language. Following is a sample of the old King James version as compared with the new one. The text is that of I Timothy.

Your faithfully,

tion of the Morden and Northwestern and Canadian Northern Railways, for which application has been made, is a proposal to combine with the C. N. R. the road known as the St. Charles extension, which now runs to Carman. "Our firm," he said, "bought the Morden and Northwestern charter and built the extension under it last summer. All that is asked is authorization to amalgamate with the C. N. R. system."

THE Peoples Forum

We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed by our correspondents. All letters must be accompanied with name of writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Rat Portage, Dec. 16th, 1901.
To the Editor of The Miner:

Sir,—I would be glad to have you print for the benefit of the directors of the Citizens' Telephone & Electric Co., an account of Co-operative Telephone system of Grand Rapids, Wis., according to the evidence given before a commission at Washington; the net cost to the members is \$3 per year for residences and \$18 per year for a business phone after paying all expenses.

Either there is something rotten in the management of the Citizens' Co., or they are making more than the Dutchman's one per cent., or as one of Cunningham's couplets puts it:

"If matters of trade, the fault of the Dutch
Is giving too little and asking too much."

And according to a report from Neepawa, Man., where steam power is used, the cost of running a telephone system of 120 phones, 1,400 incandescent lights and 150 street lights is \$5,770.90, and the revenue \$7,804.73, which shows a net profit of \$2,023.77, under municipal management.

According to the report of Mr. R. B. Donkin, made to the town council, the Citizens' Co. are collecting from the users of electric light about \$18,120, to which must be added \$2,100 paid by the town for street lighting, etc., and a rough estimate of the income from telephones would be \$2,400, which amounts to \$22,720. Of course the exact figures cannot be got at, as a number of the stockholders of the Citizens' Co. refused to give any information to Mr. Donkin.

The electric light system is so wretchedly installed that part of the system burns out the lamps and part of it the lamps are no better than tall wick dips.

The telephone system is so badly constructed and managed, that no other community in America would put up with it. If the town purchases the telephone plant I will venture to say that experts will value it at not more than 25% on the dollar of cost. The Bell Telephone Co., within the past 18 months, threw out a better one and put in one that is up to date, and it is a pleasure to talk over it. All the unsightly wires have been taken off the streets and cables have taken their place. As for induction or cross they are comparatively nil.

What they are doing is to make the telephone system pay, and they are doing it.

THE HARPOON GUN.

A Formidable Weapon That is Used on the Blue Whale.

To pursue the blue whale successfully a boat is required that can steam 12 knots an hour and which is furnished with a formidable weapon known as the harpoon gun.

The harpoon gun is a ponderous piece of apparatus placed on a raised platform in the prow of the whaler and consists of a short, stout cannon, mounted on a broad pedestal, on which it can rotate horizontally. The gun has also a vertical motion and can be turned quickly in whatever direction the position of the ship dictates.

On the top of the gun is a sight for aiming, just as in a rifle. Behind is the stock, which is gripped in the hand when firing the gun and beneath it the trigger.

The breech is a box-like arrangement situated just where the stock is fastened to the gun proper. The gun is loaded in the ordinary way from the muzzle, and the harpoon is tightly rammed into it. To discharge the gun a small cartridge, with a wire attached, is first put into the breech. Pressure on the trigger causes a pull on the wire, which ignites the cartridge and discharges the gun simultaneously.

The harpoon is about six feet in length and very massive. It consists essentially of three parts—the anterior conical portion, the movable barbs and the shaft. The anterior conical piece is an explosive shell filled with gunpowder and screws on to the rest of the harpoon. The explosive shell is fired with a time fuse after the harpoon is imbedded in the whale.

Behind the explosive conical piece lie the four barbs, situated at right angles to each other. These barbs are always bound down tightly together with thin rope when the harpoon is going to be discharged. As the harpoon penetrates the flesh of the whale this rope gets brushed off the barbs and in doing so pulls a wire, which sets fire to the fuse and it explodes the shell in a few seconds. The shell gets blown to pieces and makes a terrible wound in the whale's interior, and the explosion causes the four barbs to stand out so that it becomes impossible for the harpoon to be withdrawn. The rest of the harpoon consists of a long shaft with a slot in it, in which a ring moves freely with the rope attached.

If the whale is at all well hit, the harpoon gets imbedded about five feet, and unless the rope breaks the animal cannot escape. The rope, which is a very stout one, passes from the harpoon on to a round tray in front of the gun, where a coil of 50 feet or so lies. It then passes backward over a pulley or to the drum of a double steam winch supplied with an immensely powerful brake.

Take all in all the harpoon gun is about the most exquisitely cruel instrument of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man! But it is only when one sees and knows the prodigious brute it is meant to destroy that one realizes that it is nevertheless none too effective. The gun is never discharged at a greater distance than 50 feet and seldom, indeed, at more than 30 from the whale. To be able to get so near requires not only a very fine seamanship, but a very fine knowledge of the habits of the whale.

CULINARY CAPERS.

Now has a finer flavor if washed in hot water instead of cold before cooking.

A little sugar added to the sauce, soup or vegetables, which are now more easily digested, will remedy the evil.

Spanish sweet peppers and onions added to beef and potato, have many varieties to the dish. Serve on slices of toast with a poached egg on top of each.

An excellent salad may be made with a foundation of stir-fried beans. Cut them in short lengths, sprinkle them with chopped chives, season with salt and pepper and cover with French dressing.

A plain rice pudding, the variety that is made with rice and milk and without eggs, is much improved if a cupful of almonds, blanched and chopped, are added.



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A STUDY OF FACES.

THE HUMAN COUNTERFACTURE FROM A RACIAL POINT OF VIEW.

Caricaturists Do Little More Than Approximate Peculiarities - The American Face Is Not Distinctive In Any Sense of the Word.

"Faces present many interesting studies," said an observant citizen who had just scanned one of the comic papers, "and I have been conducting a quiet little autographic study with the human face as the basis. I have come to the conclusion that the American face is not distinctive in any sense of the word, or, if it has any distinctive feature, it is the fact that there is no strong characteristic that would differentiate it from other faces of superior races. There is nothing that will call it up in the mind from the world's group of Caucasoid faces. For this is not true of other well-known races. The English face, the Jew face, the Irish face, the French face, the Chinese face, the Japanese face, the negro face, the Indian face and even the French face, all these have something about them which will call up a definite picture in one's mind."

"The English face is a trifle dim in the mind's eye, and yet one may think of the high forehead and the high cheek bones. The French face is distinctive. The Italian face, while not strongly portrayed in the mind's picture, is yet definite enough. The Jew face is easily differentiated, and one may say the same of the Irish face. Memory may slightly mix for the moment the Chinese and the Japanese face, but still the line of difference is clearly marked. There is the poor Indian, whose face one may never forget. The negro face is thoroughly distinctive.

"But what shall one say of the American face? Take this comic paper I have been scanning. And, by the way, there is one curious thing about the faces which one may find in comic papers, a thing which one may call a police slander in caricaturing. The Jew face, the Irish face and the African face are the favorites with the men who grid out the alleged comical pictorial. They always make a clownish money grabber of the Jew, a representation as unjust as the old stage portrayal of Shylock or the Jew of Malta with his cap, his red fringe of whiskers, his wig, and his cringing manner. They were equally unjust to Pat, for Pat's son is nearly always a dither, with his pick, his pipe and his overalls, and the only justice they do him is in preserving his inimitable wit. They fail to do even so much for the Jew. In both cases the pictures show signs of having been made with the meat ax on the butcher's block, for they preserve nothing but the grotesque abnormalities of the two races. And the negro, well, he is always hanging around the heel root."

"But these faces stand out merely as types and are no accurate portrayals of the facial characteristics of the races to which they belong. There are of course suggestive of certain peculiarities which are common to all members of the race represented. But they are horrible exaggerations, unjust and almost criminal exaggerations, if one cannot say that they are accepted with indifference by persons who are prejudiced one way or the other."

"But I was speaking of the American face, with its lack of distinctive traits, the observant citizen continued: "The American face is probably not as in some ways. It is perfect in its cosmopolitanism. It is in a sense a composite face. It is international in one sense, for here and there one may find the traces which suggest a relation to this, that or the other. It may be a line or a ligament to be found in an early English ancestry, or a certain gesture of Teutonic origin, or a sharp suggestion of the Frenchman's face or the Irishman's or the Italian's or the N. American's or some slight hint which would lead one back through the flesh and tens of the ages to the styling old fore-

Poisons in the Blood Bring Pain and Death

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Foul poisons left in the blood by defective kidneys form what is known as uric acid. Its presence may be detected by such ailments as dyspepsia, associated with irregular bowels and scanty, bluish-colored urine. There are perhaps of a malignant nature in the neck and in the brain, sleepless nights, dizziness, headache, depressed spirits and impaired memory.

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